

# BSc Sciences

## Undergraduate Review

### Year 1 (2021) - FAR Implementation Report

(reviewed 2019/20)

#### Recommendation #1

Empower a faculty member to be a champion for FMS 1P00 and revamp the course to balance the content to include topics in numeracy, writing, information literacy, professional skills, presentation skills, and EDI [Equity, Diversity, Inclusion] issues in STEM.

#### ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted for consideration. The Committee recognizes the importance of this course to the program and the high value placed on it by the reviewers. While it may not be possible for this one course to deliver all of the additional content suggested by the reviewers, ARC encourages the program to consider how it might provide students with connections to existing campus resources which promote the topics listed.

#### Implementation Plan (1<sup>st</sup> Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Mathematics and Science to report by the end of academic year 2020/21

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 EDI page under development	Dean's Office	T		
Action #2 Looking for a faculty member to promote the course	Dean's Office	T		

#### Comments 2021:

All topics indicated by the reviewers, except the EDI related material, are currently included in the course curriculum. The Outreach and Communication officer for the Faculty of Math and Science (FMS) is involved in the development of an EDI (now called EDIA, A for accessibility) page for the university, expected to be completed by May 1, 2021. The

\*On Target (T), Delayed (D), Complete (C), Complete and Ongoing (O)

instructor will include questions/discussions related to EDI and refer students to this page. If needed, the instructor will seek guidance from experts within the university. A certain part of the grade will be associated with the topic of EDI.

It has not been easy to find a suitable instructor for the course. Since the introduction of this course two years back, the two instructors who taught the course have left the university. At present the responsibility of championing the course rests with the FMS Dean's Office. In time, a champion/promoter of the course will be found outside the Deans' Office. Ideally this person should be knowledgeable about the course, perhaps the instructor him(her)self.

## Recommendation #2

Augment student advising by increasing academic advising time and providing pathways for students in the form of program templates geared toward specific employment outcomes. Use outcome data to continually update and improve templates and pathways to better advise students.

### ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. Although hiring is outside the jurisdiction of the Committee, ARC recognizes that the program is working on ways to augment student advising in addition to advocating for additional advising resources.

### Implementation Plan (1<sup>st</sup> Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Mathematics and Science to report by the end of academic year 2020/21

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Application for a dedicated advisor for the program was made to the HRC [Hiring Review Committee].	Dean's Office	T		
Action #2 Various pathways for students in the program are being developed	Academic Advisor	T		

### Comments 2021:

An application for an advisor dedicated to BSc Sciences and Neuroscience programs as well

On Target (T), Delayed (D), Complete (C), Complete and Ongoing (O)

as International Students was made to the HRC. HRC has approved a fixed term one-year contract appointment with benefits. Since HRC did not approve a permanent dedicated advisor position, the position will have to be funded by the Dean’s Strategic fund contrary to the Operating Budget for 2021-22. The current academic advisor’s caseload has already become unsustainably high.

The current FMS Academic Advisor has agreed to develop pathways leading to various career and employment opportunities, and to work with the Outreach and Communication Officer to put these on a FMS web page. A link to this page will be placed under program notes in the calendar.

The job of updating the templates and pathways will be delegated to the advisor dedicated to this program, once the position is filled.

**Recommendation #3**

Develop a robust method to track outcomes for BSc Sciences students to provide a better understanding of student outcomes and aid in program improvement.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee understands that the unique nature of the program will require some time to develop a robust method to track outcomes.

**Implementation Plan (2<sup>nd</sup> Priority)**

Responsible for approving: Program  
 Responsible for resources: Program  
 Responsible for implementation: Program  
 Timeline: Dean of Mathematics and Science to report by the end of academic year 2021/22

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Tracking of students has been initiated	Dean’s Office and the Office of Institutional Analysis	T		

**Comments 2021:**

The job of tracking students to develop a better understanding of student outcomes in the program will be shared by the Dean's Office and the Office of Institutional Analysis. In conjunction with the Faculty of Mathematics and Sciences, Institutional Analysis has committed to develop and share a draft report to track BSc Sciences student outcomes by the end of April 2021. Two meetings with the Office of Institutional Analysis have taken place so far on the issue of tracking.

The Dean's Office will be involved in the planning of the future development of the program, based on the analysis of the tracking results.